

Thomas Jefferson to John F. Mercer, December 19, 1792, from The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.

TO JOHN FRANCIS MERCER J. MSS.

Philadelphia Dec. 19, 1792.

Dear Sir, —I received yesterday your favor of the 13th. I had been waiting two or three days in expectation of vessels said to be in the river & by which we hoped more particular accounts of the late affairs in France. It has turned out that there were no such vessels arriving as had been pretended. However I think we may safely rely that the D of Brunswick has retreated, and it is certainly possible enough that between famine, disease, and a country abounding with defiles, he may suffer some considerable catastrophe. The Monocrats here still affect to disbelieve all this, while the republicans are rejoicing and taking to themselves the name of Jacobins which two months ago was affixed on them by way of stigma. The votes for Vice President, as far as hitherto known stand thus:

ADAMS. CLINTON. N Hampshire 6 Massachusetts 16 Rhode island 4 Connecticut 9 New York 12 Pennsylvania 14 1 Delaware 3 Maryland 8 Virginia 21 60 34

Bankrupt bill is brought on, with some very threatening features to landed & farming men, who are in danger of being drawn into it's vortex. It assumes the right of seizing & selling lands, and so cuts the knotty question of the Constitution whether the general government may direct the transmission of land by descent or otherwise.—The post office is not within my department, but that of the treasury.—I note duly what you say of Mr. Skinner,

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but I don't believe any bill on Weights & measures will be passed. Adieu. D.r Sir, Yours affectionately.